Message Text

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TAGS: UNDP AORG EAID IR

SUBJ: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL 24TH SESSION: VIEWS OF GOI

REF: STATE 135743

1. DRAWING ON POINTS MADE IN REFTEL AND EXTRACTS OF AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN'S SPEECH GIVEN IN USIS WIRELESS FILE JUNE 16, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH ACTING DIRECTOR (EHASASSI) OF OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, MFA, JUNE 22 TO SOLICIT GOI THINKING ON US PERCEPTIONS RE UNDP.

2. EHASASSI SAID THAT GOI FINDS ITSELF IN TOTAL AGREE-MENT WITH US VIEWS, INCLUDING NEED FOR MULTI-YEAR ACCELERATION OF UNDP EFFORTS IN POOREST NATIONS AND NEED FOR A "LEAN AND MUSCULAR" UNDP ORGANIZATION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE HAS DONE A SPLENDID JOB IN MANAGING UNDP TO DATE AND HAS INSTILLED IN UNDP A GREATER SENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PURPOSE. EHASASSI NOTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM NEW YORK WHERE HE WAS DEP HEAD OF GOI DEL UNDER AMB HOYEDA AND WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH UNDP ACTIVITIES.

3. GOI RECENTLY INCREASED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP FROM ONE MILLION DOLLARS PER ANNUM TO FOUR MILLION

DOLLARS PER ANNUM. AT A TIME OF BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES IN GOI, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS INCREASE IN ITS CONTRIBUTION GAVE AMPLE PROOF OF IRAN'S SINCERITY OF PURPOSE. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, IRAN IS UNABLE TO GO BEYOND FOUR MILLION DOLLARS AT THIS TIME BUT HE THOUGHT THAT ADMINISTRATOR MORSE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO IRAN UNDERSTOOD REASONS WHY GOI WOULD HAVE TO HOLD TO FOUR MILLION DOLLAR LEVEL FOR TIME BEING. HE OTED IN PASSING THAT ARAB COUNTRIES ON OTHER SIDE OF THE GULF (CITING SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND UAE) DESPITE BEING FAR BETTER SITUATED IN TERMS OF SURPLUS REVENUES, HAD NOT INCREASED THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP.

4. UNDP PROJECTS IN IRAN, HE SAID, ARE NOW FULLY FUNDED BY GOI. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IRANIAN DEL HAS ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH US MISSION IN NEW YORK ON UNDP MATTERS AND SAW NO REASON WHY THIS CLOSE COLLABORATION OUGTH NOT TO CONTINUE.

5. COMMENT: EHASASSI IS CORRECT IN SAYING UNDP PROJECTS IN IRAN ARE FULLY FUNDED BUT ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT GOI CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP'S GLOBAL BUDGET ROUGHLY EQUAL UNDP EXPENDITURES IN IRAN. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR 1972-1977, UNDP ALLOCATED \$19.3 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN IRAN WHILE GOI CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP'S WORLWIDE BUDGET WAS \$20 MILLION. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT DURING SAME PERIOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOTALING \$19.7 MILLION WAS PROVIDED BY GOI TO UNDP AS A SUPPLEAMENTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR UNDP PROJECTS IN IRAN. GOI ALSO PROVIDES ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF UNDP'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN IRAN, EXCLUDING SALARIES OF UNDP'S INTERNATIONAL STAFF ASSIGNED HERE. IN THE PROJECT ACCOUNTING SENSE AS REGARDS INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS IN IRAN, SOMEWHAT MORE THAN HALF OF COST ATTRIBUTABLE TO INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS ARE FUNDED BY GOI. SULLIVAN

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